

PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT: The Sandhills Game Land portion, though in conservation ownership, has no special protection such as Registry. The remaining lands are in multiple private ownership. Acquisition of several tracts, at least those containing the wet depressions and the Michaux's sumac, is warranted, adding them to the Sandhills Game Land. Conservation agencies should work with the owner of the bulk of the sumac population to make sure that it is being well-managed/protected.

Most of the natural area greatly needs prescribed burns. These burns need to occur at least every 5 years, if not every 3 years. Fires could open up the wet depressions to a host of wetland herb species. Fire, or thinning of saplings, is needed every few years in the abandoned field to maintain the rare sumac population, which will decline as trees overtake the sumacs and begin providing dense amounts of shade.

NATURAL COMMUNITIES: Small Depression Pocosin, Wet Pine Flatwoods

RARE PLANTS: Michaux's sumac (*Rhus michauxii*)

RARE ANIMALS: red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*)

REFERENCES:

- LeGrand, H. 2003. Site report: Naomi Church Sandhills. N.C. Natural Heritage Program, Office of Conservation and Community Affairs, DENR, Raleigh.
- LeGrand, H. 2004. Site report: Naomi Church Sandhills – Visit II. N.C. Natural Heritage Program, Office of Conservation and Community Affairs, DENR, Raleigh.